

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Purchase of Motor Vehicles from Czechoslovakia

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1. [] the Chinese Communists ordered a total of 3,000 motor vehicles from Czechoslovakia, to be delivered over the course of two years on a barter basis. The order was primarily intended to replace vehicles which had worn out.
2. [] more than 1,400 vehicles arrived in China, including:
 - 30 Tatraplan passenger sedans
 - 200 Tatra 87-V8 passenger sedans
 - 220 Praga A-150 1½-ton trucks
 - 250 Praga-RN 3-ton trucks
 - 500 Jawa motorcycles
 - 200 Tractors
3. The Tatra 87-V8 passenger sedans were to be sold to the public at a price of JMP 140,000,000. The Tatraplan sedans, the most modern of the Czechoslovakian passenger sedans, were for the use of top-level Chinese Communist cadres.¹
4. Motor vehicles imported from the USSR are primarily for military use.

1. [] Comment. A Tatraplan sedan was given to Marshal Stalin in 1949 in honor of his 70th birthday. The engine in these cars is mounted at the back and they have a maximum speed of 150 kilometers per hour.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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